



GENERAL RELIEF & CAPI PROGRAMS SECTION NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED BY GENERAL RELIEF AND CALFRESH
PROGRAM DIVISION

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ CA Proposition 41
approved by voters
- ◆ Help coming for
Homeless Vets

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veteran

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California Voters Pass Proposition 41 For Homeless Veterans

California Voters Approve More Housing Options for Homeless General Relief Veterans By Passing Proposition 41 in June:

Did you know that many of our General Relief (GR) participants who are veterans are also homeless? Of the more than 10,800 veterans currently receiving GR benefits in Los Angeles County, nearly 70% of them, or about 2,300 individuals are homeless and in need of a place to live.

On June 3, 2014, they received a huge boost when the California voters approved "The Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act of 2014." The new Act will fund the renovation of multi-family housing specifically earmarked for homeless and low-income veterans.



With the passage of Prop 41 there will be many more housing opportunities available for eligible GR veterans. Generally, these veterans may be eligible for housing, educational benefits, and other veteran benefits. To qualify for these benefits, veterans must have a discharge status from military service under other than dishonorable conditions.

In GR, almost 60% of veterans have an honorable discharge. However, in approximately 40% of the cases no discharge status is entered on LEADER. Reminder to District staff, whenever interviewing a veteran, please review the Military/Veteran Detail screen on LEADER and complete the Discharge Status field. This can help identify these veterans for inclusion into the veteran's housing programs. For questions or more information, please call the GR Program manager for veterans projects, at (562) 908-6767.

Identifying Veterans In the GR District Offices:

When asked, many veterans fail to identify themselves as veterans. There are several reasons why, but one identified reason is that many veterans see themselves as former military, but not as veterans. When staff interview someone who may have some military service experience, please be innovative and ask several different ways if they are a veteran. For example, ask if they were in the military, or what branch of service they participated in. Generally, anyone who served in any military branch of service is a veteran. Log into lacounty.gov and then use the search engine for additional information for veterans.

PHYSICAL HEALTH DISABILITY ASSESSMENT REDESIGN HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Effective August 1, 2014**, all GR applicants/participants who are unable to work must provide medical verification from their Medi-Cal provider.
- On July 31, 2014, the Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) contracts expire. The FQHCs will no longer provide disability assessment services to participants as currently designed.
- In order to align the GR Physical Health Disability Assessment System with the Affordable Care Act requirements and to offer effective services to GR applicants/participants, the disability



REFERRALS FOR HEALTH ADVOCATES

Continued from the front page:

- A new Physical Health Disability Assessment form (ABP 1676-1) is scheduled for released very soon by GR Program staff. This form replaces the old ABP 1676 and ABP 1676P forms.
- GR Program staff will complete, release, and make available the new Administrative Directive for the Physical Health Disability Redesign for all District staff, in the near future.

Referrals To Health Advocates For Hearings:

Before referring participants to Health Advocates for hearing representation, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Medi-Cal Advocacy Program (SSIMAP) Advocates must verify that the next level of appeal for the participant is either a reconsideration or hearing. As the Social Security Administration (SSA) has reinforced its policy of using the applicant's mailing address to determine which SSA field office will process the application, it might not be clear which level of appeal a participant needs. When taking a SSI application, SSIMAP Advocates should encourage participants to use the District Office's mailing address to ensure the application is processed by the corresponding SSA field office. If the participant insists on using their own mailing address, the requested mailing address should be used.

If the mailing address used falls in an area serviced by a non-redesigned SSA field office (Reconsideration Level Of Appeal - RLOA), the request for appeal should be completed by the SSIMAP Advocate. If the address is in an area serviced by a redesigned SSA field office (no RLOA), the request for appeal should be forwarded to Health Advocates. If the SSA office service area is unclear, SSIMAP Advocates must check the SSA website to verify the correct SSA field office by using the participant's mailing address zip code. The SSA field office locator can be found online at: <https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp#officeResults>.

Mental Health Brief Engagements

Mental Health Brief Engagements (MHBE):

Department of Mental Health (DMH) co-located Clinicians now provide a Brief Engagement in lieu of the full assessment for GR participants who are receiving treatment at a DMH Clinic and have had an appointment in the last 90 days. The Clinicians check the DMH computer records to determine who is eligible for the MHBE. This will prevent participants with serious and persistent mental illnesses from facing multiple mental health assessments within a short period of time.

In addition to saving the participants time, the Brief Engagements have reduced the number of overflow Need Special Assistance (NSA) Screenings that must be completed by the District Office staff. If this trend continues there will be even less overflow NSA Screenings needed in the near future. Finding and assisting these participants will be very rewarding for both the participants and the staff!

If you have any success stories of participants who received services from the Enterprise Linkages Program, please email Mario Uribe of the Special Projects & SSI Advocacy Section. If you have any success stories of a participant who received services of a Housing Subsidy Program, please email your stories to Cynthia Evans of the GR & CAPI Programs Section. Edited by Section Staff.

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